

Executive Summary



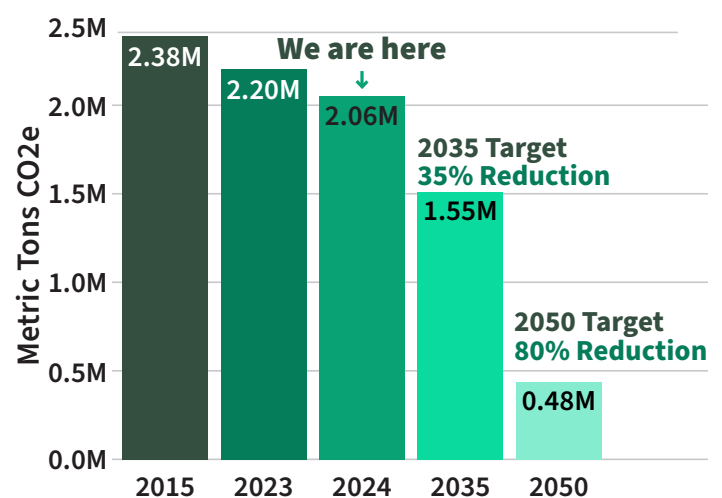
Overview

Columbia's **updated Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)** builds on the foundation of the 2019 CAAP, reflecting progress to date, updated science, and community input while maintaining the plan's original priorities. Rather than starting from scratch, the 2025-2026 update refines and prioritizes existing actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience to climate impacts, such as extreme heat and flooding. The plan focuses on a streamlined set of near-term, achievable actions for the next five years, while recognizing ongoing and long-term efforts already underway.

The update was developed through a collaborative, engagement-driven process that included City staff, community members, local organizations, and other stakeholders. Community and stakeholder input helped shape CAAP actions, priorities, and implementation strategies around clean energy, transportation, equity, affordability, natural resources, and health. This updated CAAP positions Columbia to continue making meaningful progress toward a more **resilient, equitable, and low-emissions future**.

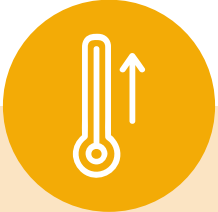



Columbia's Climate Context

Columbia tracks progress on climate action through annual greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories for both community-wide emissions and municipal operations. Since 2015, the City has made steady progress, with 2024 community-wide emissions down 14% overall. The updated CAAP reaffirms the GHG reduction targets established in 2019: **reducing community-wide emissions 35% by 2035, 80% by 2050, and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060**, with municipal operations reaching a 50% reduction by 2035 and net-zero by 2050. The plan prioritizes near-term, achievable actions across sectors to keep Columbia on track toward these long-term goals.



*Part of the 2024 transportation emissions were estimated due to lack of timely data




Climate change is already impacting Columbia. **Rising temperatures, heavier rainfall, worsening flooding, poorer air quality, and longer vector-borne disease seasons** are affecting health, infrastructure, water systems, and natural areas. These impacts are not felt equally—children, older adults, low-income households, and communities of color face higher risks, along with increasing threats to housing, transportation, utilities, parks, and trails. CAAP actions aim to **reduce risk, protect critical assets, and prepare the community for a changing climate.**





 <p>Hotter Temperatures</p>	 <p>Heavy Rain and Flooding</p>	 <p>Vector-born Disease</p>	 <p>Poor Air Quality</p>
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Goals and Actions

The original CAAP included approximately 160 actions across all sectors; this update narrows that focus to impactful and achievable priorities for the next five years. Actions from the original CAAP were reviewed with City staff and community stakeholders and categorized as near-term, long-term, ongoing, or removed, resulting in **33 priority actions** that will guide implementation over the next 5 years.

SECTORS, GOALS, AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

Sector	Goals and Priority Actions
 <p>Energy</p>	<p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increase local renewable energy generation and procure renewable electricity – Maintain reliability of local energy supply and local distribution <p>Actions: Municipal building solar</p>
 <p>Housing, Building, and Development</p>	<p>Goal: Reduce housing, building-, and development-related energy consumption and improve resiliency</p> <p>Actions: Energy efficiency retrofits, Community Cost Share Fund, residential energy performance rating program, commercial building water/energy tracking, City building energy performance & benchmarking, 500-year floodplain policy evaluation</p>
 <p>Transportation</p>	<p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reduce travel by car – Reduce GHG emissions from vehicles <p>Actions: Complete Streets policy, transportation funding, bus service improvements, pedestrian infrastructure expansion, infill and connected neighborhoods, residential density, parking requirements, electric vehicle roadmap, EV charging expansion</p>

Sector	Goals and Priority Actions
 <p>Waste</p>	<p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reduce waste generation – Increase diversion – Improve waste system management <p>Actions: Waste program rebuild, waste communications strategy</p>
 <p>Health, Safety, and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prepare the community, public safety and health services for anticipated climate change impacts – Reduce emissions associated with the food system <p>Actions: Funding for expanded utility emergency assistance, bus shelter extreme heat relief, traffic health impact assessment, neighborhood-focused resilience</p>
 <p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increase climate resilience and carbon sequestration potential of public and private lands – Reduce per capita water usage – Reduce negative impacts from stormwater runoff and flooding <p>Actions: Natural Areas Management Plan, landscape connectivity strategy, tree preservation requirements, native plants, water conservation and green infrastructure, sustainable construction, flood risk assessment, stream buffer requirements</p>
 <p>Implementation</p>	<p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Establish climate action as a priority for the City Council and the community – Establish CAAP goals as priorities in the activities of the City of Columbia as an organization – Strengthen City capacity to support community climate action <p>Actions: Climate assessment requirement, project and budget integration, community celebration events</p>

Implementation of the CAAP will rely on continued collaboration among City staff and community partners, and progress will continue to be tracked through annual greenhouse gas inventories, performance metrics, and public reporting to City Council.